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IRAN

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Regional Affairs

Iran, Afghanistan Discuss Banking Cooperation

93AS0207F Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 Oct 92 p 2

[Text] In a meeting between the director of the Central Bank of Afghanistan and the director general of the Central Bank of our country, mutual relations between the two banks were examined.

According to a report by the public relations office of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in this meeting, which took place yesterday morning in Tehran, Gholam Mohammad Yeylaqi, the director of the Central Bank of Afghanistan, describing the economic situation of his country, expressed his interest in establishing mutual relations between the banks in the two countries.

Internal Affairs

IRI Constitutionally Refuses Dual Citizenship

93AS0220E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I
in Persian 4 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] Tehran, KEYHAN-E HAVA'I news service. 9 Aban [31 Oct]. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country denied the rumors published in some counter-revolutionary publications abroad concerning the extension of Iranian passports for individuals who have acquired dual citizenship.

Recently in this connection a number of Persian-language publications in Europe and the United States have published a forged report announcing that the embassies of the Islamic Republic of Iran will renew the passports of individuals who have acquired dual citizenship from other countries.

Another official of the office of information and publications of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country contacted KEYHAN-E HAVA'I, denied this report, and said: According to Article 41 of the Constitution and Article 989 of the civil law, the Islamic Republic of Iran does not accept dual citizenship and for this reason will not renew the Iranian passports of individuals who have become citizens of other countries.

National Archives Equipped With Microfilm

93AS0220F Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I
in Persian 4 Nov 92 p 4

[Interview with Razavi, vice president and secretary general of the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Agency; interviewer, place and date not given]

[Text] Tehran. IRNA. 5 Aban [27 Oct]. The microfilm center of the Iranian National Archives was opened and

put into operation in the presence of the secretary general of the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Agency.

Razavi, the vice president and secretary general of the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Agency, after visiting various people in the microfilm center of the Iranian National Archives, said in an interview:

For the first time issues concerning national historical documents will have connections with new computer technology and, in fact, all the national documents from today will be made available to researchers in microfilm and microfiche forms.

He added: This equipment is able to put up to 2,500 pages on one microfilm page, and this system, considering the huge volume of documents in the organization, can be useful.

The secretary general of the National Administrative Employment Agency said in connection with the volume of existing documents in the National Archives: In the past three years, more than 200 million documents have been placed at the disposal of this agency for use and repair.

He added: The combination of manpower and absorbing experts to train them provide the possibility to make better use of them to protect the cultural and historical works of our country. This agency has established bases to have more extensive and useful communication with other cities. These bases collect and file important historical documents.

In conclusion he added: The members of this agency, including more than 1,000 researchers, can go to the agency and make use of the collected documents in the agency.

Housing Provisions for Deputies Increased

93AS0212K London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] In accordance with a ratification of the Board of Directors of the Majles, the "housing provisions" for Majles deputies, which was 3,000 tomans per month, has increased to 30,000 tomans per month in this session. The increase in the "housing provisions" for deputies is especially worthy of note, because none of them pay rent for their housing units; they all reside in so-called organizational housing.

A Tehran newspaper, in response to the protest of a reader angered by this unbridled increase, wrote: The deputies in the previous sessions also received 3,000 tomans every month and lived in the same organizational housing, but now the deputies receive 30,000 tomans per month.

Country's Communication Network To Expand

93AS0224F London KEYHAN in Persian 3 Dec 92 p 4

[Text] The Iranian Communications Company will accept the help of German and French experts, especially the services of technical advisers of the Siemens, Standard Electric, and Lawrence Companies, to expand the communications network of the country and increase the number of telephones from 2 million early this year to 12 million by mid-1996. According to MEED, the economic weekly magazine published in London, at the present time, the experts and technical advisers of both the European companies of Siemens and Standard Electric have taken full advantage of the job opportunities in the domestic markets of the Islamic Republic and are trying to gain a major share of the future contracts in the area of expanding the Iranian communications network. The above-mentioned weekly writes: "Early this year, both the Siemens and Standard Electric Companies succeeded in acquiring several important contracts to sell the technical equipment involved in the creation of 1.2 million telephone lines to the communications company. The value of the above-mentioned contracts amounted to \$180 million."

The economic journal MEED added in its report: "The two European companies, Siemens and Standard Electric, are trying to gain the contracts for the expansion of the Iranian "digital" telephone network, whose lines will reach 6 million in four years. The value of these contracts is estimated at \$800 million."

Foundation Assigned Infrastructure Activities

93AS0224E London KEYHAN in Persian 3 Dec 92 p 4

[Text] The Foundation for the Oppressed and Self-Sacrificers of the Islamic Republic, in order to expand its business activities, has taken charge of some of the essential duties of the government and announced that soon it will take part in investing in the construction of the Tehran-Mashhad rapid-transit railroad. Mohammad Sa'idikia, the minister of roads and transport of the Islamic regime, some time ago took part in a meeting at the Majles and revealed that the Cabinet has approved the participation of the Foundation for the Oppressed in investing in the building of the Bandar 'Abbas loop road. In addition, the Foundation was granted permission to provide 80 percent of the capital for the Tehran-Mashhad rapid-transit railroad. The Foundation for the Oppressed and Self-Sacrificers of the Islamic Republic, by taking advantage of the usurped property belonging to the people valued at hundreds of billions of rials and carrying out monopolies without commercial control in all areas, has acquired inestimable wealth. It has expanded its commercial activities to the fundamental affairs of the country, such as building railroads and roads, purchasing shops, creating shipping lines in the international waters, and, finally, creating airline companies to carry passengers inside and outside the country. At the present time, the Foundation, by relying on the overall support of the leaders of the regime, without any legal responsibilities

before the Majles, the Accounting Court, or other government organizations, and especially given the vagueness of the issue of payment or exemption of income taxes, has become the largest commercial agency in the country. The cancerous growth of the Foundation for the Oppressed, by taking advantage of the concealed and open support of many corrupt and wealth-accumulating leaders of the regime, resulted in the investigation of the accounts and books of this profiteering organization and the illegal activities according to the current laws of the country being dragged into the Majles as well, and many of the deputies strongly criticize the operations and activities of the Foundation.

An expert on Iranian economic affairs recently announced that the financial ability of the Foundation for the Oppressed in many areas is greater than the financial ability of the bankrupt and penniless government, and the Islamic regime, which at the present time is undergoing the worst financial conditions, has turned to this Foundation to implement many of the essential projects and activities of the country. The above-mentioned expert added: "Today, the foundation for the Oppressed, without any fear of answering to legal authorities or government audits, has entered the wealth and profits from the sale of property belonging to the people into commercial activities, and these actions are given the unquestionable sanction of many of the leaders of the regime as well."

Theological Seminary Supreme Council Members Named

93AS0208B Tehran ABRAR in Persian 1 Nov 92 p 9

[Text] Qom. ABRAR Correspondent. Ceremonies to introduce the new members of the new Supreme Council of the Theological Seminary were held in Qom.

Towards achieving the directives of the grand leader, based on reforming and perfecting the seminary, in ceremonies in the presence of the representatives of Grand Ayatollahs Golpayegani and Araki, the representatives of the grand leader; Ayatollah Yazdi, the head of the judicial branch; the heads of the theological seminaries throughout the country; political and religious personalities; scholars; theologians; and a large number of clerics and seminary students of the Qom Theological Seminary were held in the Dar al-Shafa School. New members of the Supreme Council of the Theological Seminary were presented as follows:

Ayatollah Makarem-Shirazi, first secretary of the Supreme Council of the Theological Seminary.

Ayatollah Mo'men, manager of the Supreme Council of the Theological Seminary.

Ayatollah Rasti-Kashani, second secretary of the Supreme Council of the Theological Seminary.

We also appointed Messrs Mahfuzi Taheri, Khorramabad, and Ostadi as members of the Supreme Council of the Theological Seminary.

In these ceremonies first Ayatollah Lankarani, the former manager of the Administrative Council, spoke about the selection procedures for the new management council and its goals and programs. In a part of his speech, he referred to the importance and essential role of the Qom Theological Seminary in the growth and blossoming of the country and meeting the needs of the whole world in terms of religious jurisprudence. He said: The new members of the Management Council, who are approved directly by Grand Ayatollahs Golpayegani and Araki and the grand leader, are determined with the support and cooperation of all the teachers, scholars, and students in the theological seminaries to create a profound change in the seminary and not allow it to become stagnant. Efforts will be

made to teach other lessons and sciences in addition to religious jurisprudence and principles.

In the continuation of these ceremonies, Ayatollah Makarem-Shirazi, the first secretary of the Supreme Council of the Theological Seminary, in a speech referred to the lofty role of the Qom Seminary in the education of the specialized forces needed in Iran and other countries of the world and added: The seminary must be a center for all Islamic knowledge and the conditions of the seminary must be such that its members, after entering and reaching a certain level, travel to other parts of the country in order to open room for the talented youth in the country, and for them to also share their knowledge with others.

Nurbakhsh Views Nation's Economic State
93AS0207A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 28 Oct 92 p 3

[Text] In the open session of the Majles yesterday, with 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri presiding, the examination of the urgent bill on "amending laws and regulations of the Iranian Industrial Standards and Research Institute" continued, and with the ratification of another attachment, this bill was fully ratified by the Majles.

Also in this session amendments on the proposal to "determine the service situation of the guards of the deputies of the Majles" and also the "legislative proposal to determine the deputy director of the Islamic city council," which were returned from the Council of Guardians to the Majles, were ratified.

In the open session of the Majles yesterday, Baytollah Ja'fari, from Urmia; 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, from Karaj; 'Abd ol-Hoesyn Moqtada'i, from Abadan; and Ahmad Taha, from Bakan, spoke as pre-agenda speakers about the problems of their constituencies.

Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance, in the open session of the Majles yesterday presented a report on the economic situation of the country and also the trade monetary policies made by that ministry.

In this report, he pointed out the necessity for strengthening large policies for the production and investment sectors as opposed to the distribution and consumption sectors, mentioning it as a strong motor for the natural economy.

The minister of economic affairs and finance considered the economic policies of the country to be in the direction of investment and production and fundamental sectors and said: In strengthening the production sectors, which feed the consumer and distribution sectors, we will be able to meet the demands of the whole society.

He regarded the economic policies made after the acceptance of the resolution as different from those made before it and added: Before adopting Resolution 598, the efforts of the government were concentrated mostly on the proper method of consumption and distribution of the existing resources, which seemed natural for the government to be able to advance its defense policies.

Among the symptoms of the government policies during the war, Nurbakhsh mentioned the expansive interference and activities of the government in various sectors and the increase in the government expenditures and said: If under these circumstances we do not try to eliminate this symptom, naturally other symptoms will follow.

Among the economic policies of the government in the first Five-Year Plan, he mentioned the elimination of the imbalance between total supply and demand and the creation of an economic balance in the country.

The minister of economic affairs and finance considered the goal of the financial policies of the government to be reduced government expenditures through transferring some of the production activities to the private sector and combining similar activities as well as increased collection of taxes to the total government revenues.

He said: In this connection, the ratio of increased taxes to the total collected revenues from 1369-1371 [21 Mar 1990-20 Mar 1993] has reached from 30 percent to more than 40 percent and in terms of developmental expenditures to current expenditures, these three years have been in the interest of developmental expenditures.

The minister of economic affairs and finance emphasized the necessity to coordinate the monetary policies with the financial policies and considered the monetary policies implemented in the course of the first Five-Year Plan successful.

Among these successes he mentioned the increase in bank deposits and the increase in banking facilities.

In his report, the minister of economic affairs and finance also emphasized the necessity of setting one rate for foreign currency and mentioned the decreased use of foreign currency, the decrease in imports, investments, and proper production, as well as the decrease in the waiting period for the national industries among the favorable results of this issue.

Among the trade policies of the ministry he mentioned new customs tariffs and trade taxes and said: With the implementation of this plan, we are trying to protect the producers and gain suitable revenues for the national budget and protect the consumers as well.

Nurbakhsh considered the implemented policies successful on the whole and said: With the implementation of these policies, the increase in the gross national product has reached 11 percent, with most of this growth in the industrial sectors.

In conclusion, he emphasized the necessity of investment by the private sector in the continuation of growth of the national economy and asked for the creation of suitable grounds for its implementation.

Gas Reserves Estimated at 20 Billion Cubic Meters

93AS0209D Tehran RESALAT in Persian 29 Oct 92 p 15

[Text] Tehran. IRNA. The total production of natural gas of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) increased from 43.81 billion cubic meters in 1990 to 466.09 billion in 1991.

The OPEC news agency reported from Vienna that among OPEC members, the production of natural gas by Algeria, "the largest producer of OPEC natural gas" in 1991, decreased by 0.3 percent compared to 1990 and reached 126.27 billion cubic meters.

While the production of natural gas in Indonesia in 1991 increased by 7.1 percent compared to the previous year and reached 65.57 billion cubic meters, the production of Saudi Arabian natural gas in 1991 increased by 19.6 percent in 1991 and reached 64.7 billion cubic meters.

Iranian natural gas production in 1991 increased by 5.4 percent and reached 57.5 billion cubic meters.

According to this report, the Iranian natural gas reserves increased from 17 billion cubic meters in 1990 to 20 billion cubic meters in 1991.

New 1,000, 10,000-Rial Bank Notes Issued

93AS0220G Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I
in Persian 4 Nov 92 p 11

[Text] Tehran. KEYHAN-E HAVA'I news service. 6 Aban [28 Oct]. The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the basis of the law for preserving the works and memory of Imam Khomeyni has issued new 1,000-rial and 10,000-rial bank notes with the picture of Imam Khomeyni.

The above-mentioned bank notes and also the new 10- and 50-rial coins became currency from 6/8/71 [28 Aug 1992] with the following characteristics:

The 1,000-rial bank notes in terms of size, color, back design, and imprint are very similar to the current 1,000-rial bank notes, but the face of the bank notes feature the picture of Imam Khomeyni.

The new 10,000-rial bank notes are also very similar to the current 10,000-rial bank notes. The color of these bank notes is blue and green, and on the face to the right is a picture of Imam Khomeyni.

Also, on the lower left of this bank note, two raised lines as identifying marks to facilitate identification by the blind have been designed and printed.

The back of the new 10,000-rial bank notes has a picture of Damavand Mountain and also imprinted on the bank note is the picture of Imam Khomeyni.

The new 10-rial coins are made of a yellow brass alloy, are 21.2 millimeters in diameter, and weigh 3 grams.

The design on the face of this coin is the Ferdowsi Tomb, with the phrase, Ferdowsi's Tomb, under it.

The 50-rial coin is made of copper and nickel (silver color), is 26.2 millimeters in diameter, and weighs 7 grams. The face of this coin has a picture of the tomb of her holiness Ma'sumeh, with the phrase, Tomb, under it [sentence as published].

The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran also announced: Considering that any sort of damage to the above-mentioned bank notes is subject to the regulations of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic and the

damages will be directly the loss of the possessor of the bank notes, we request that the fellow citizens make an effort to protect them.

Imports Decrease, Exports Increase Over Past 6 Months

93AS0207B Tehran ABRAR in Persian 22 Oct 92 p 3

[Text] In the ports of the country in the first six months of this year, 8,346,000 tons of goods were unloaded. Compared to a similar period last year, which was 8,849,000 tons, this figure shows a decrease of 6 percent.

The amount of exports during the same period was 1,167,000 tons, which compared to a similar period last year, which was 1,107,000 tons, shows an increase.

According to a report by IRNA quoting the Public Relations Office of the Ports and Shipping Organization, during this period, 7,473,000 tons of goods were carried by 450,661 trucks to domestic centers.

The most active ports in the past six months in terms of unloading and loading were Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni, with 4,070,000 tons; Bandar-e Shahid Raja'i, with 2,818,000 tons; and Bandar-e Shahid Bahonar, with 669,000 tons, respectively.

During this period, 927 ships entered the national ports.

Export of Handicrafts Exceed \$1 Billion

93AS0220H Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I
in Persian 18 Nov 92 p 28

[Text] Tehran. IRNA. 21 Aban [12 Nov]. The discovery of pottery kilns and the remains of objects and pottery shows that the history of pottery manufacturing stems from Iranians.

Engineer Voqafi, the general manager of the Iranian Handicrafts Industry Agency, made this announcement in the "Special Seminar on Studying the Problems of Iranian Traditional Pottery and Ceramics" and said: "Historians and archaeologists consider Iran the birthplace of the pottery and ceramic industry."

He said: The Iranian Handicrafts Industry Agency, to promote the growth of handicraft industries and support the craftsmen, by issuing about 3,000 agreements in principle, offering various designs, forms, and expert opinions, providing raw materials, and establishing various workshops, has played a significant role in the growth and development of handicraft industries.

Eng. Voqafi mentioned the Iranian civilization as one of the ancient civilizations of the world and said: The pottery industry after the advent of Islam into Iran grew, and this industry advanced day by day. It can be said that in the area of the handicraft industries we are the superpower of the world.

He called the traditional pottery and ceramic industry a delicate and sensitive art with a mixture of precision, labor, and experience.

Another speaker of this seminar was Yavari, the technical and research deputy director of the Iranian handicraft industries.

He said: Studies on the objects that have been discovered in connection with Iranian pottery and ceramics show a long history of this industry in Iran and are valid evidence that Iran was certainly the birthplace of pottery.

He emphasized: The pottery and ceramics industry in Iran grew and created a new industry, called tile work.

Yavari said: The exports of Iranian handicrafts last year amounted to \$1.1 billion, which is 47 percent of the total of nonoil exports of the country.

He mentioned Iran as one of the three major producers of handicrafts in the world and mentioned not using pottery in Iran as having a cultural basis.

Price of Chicken Rises to 200 Tomans Per Kilo

93AS0212L London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] The price of chicken, which last year was 100 to 120 tomans per kilo, reached 150 tomans in the middle of this year, and now the Construction Jihad, which had entered the market to break the inflationary prices on the chicken market, has set its price at 195 tomans per kilo.

Chicken was one of the items that enjoyed government subsidies, and was rationed to the people at 40 tomans per kilo, which of course was not sufficient for them. But with the removal of subsidies, the price has begun to increase and has now reached 200 tomans per kilo.

Assemblage of Peugeot To Reach 100,000 Per Year

93AS0190G London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Oct 92 p 4

[Text] In the last year the Peugeot assembly industries in Iran, by selling more than 20,000 automobiles of this type, have taken over most of the domestic automobile market. By the year 1999 the automobile assembly company Iran Khodro intends to increase its annual Peugeot production to 100,000 units per year. In 1989, by signing a major contract with Iran Khodro, France's Peugeot automobile production industries succeeded in exporting to Iran a significant number of Peugeot motors and prefabricated spare parts for assembly and sale on the domestic market. The economic weekly MEED, published in London, which in its latest issue analyzed the quantity and quality of France's economic relations with the regime of the Islamic Republic, in discussing the export of prefabricated vehicle parts to Iran wrote: "While in the last three years the demand in Iran for passenger automobiles has continuously increased, the Renault automobile production company, despite its

comprehensive efforts, due to its failure to hold negotiations with the Saipa Company, was unable to take advantage of the Iran's golden market positions." The publication added: "The Saipa automobile assembly company, which last year produced and put on the market 19,831 Renault-5s, this year has completely stopped producing these types of automobiles because of problems in its cooperation with the French Renault Company." Quoting officials from the French Renault Company, the MEED economic weekly wrote: "Negotiations by France's Renault officials with Saipa of Iran concerning the assembly of Renault-21 automobiles in this country were unsuccessful. It is not clear when the two companies will resolve their differences and begin producing these automobiles in Iran."

Hamadan Power Plant Construction Activities Detailed

93AS0207C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 21 Oct 92 p 9

[Text] Hamadan. ABRAR reporter. The first phase of the 1,000-megawatt [MW] power plant of Hamadan will reach operation in the second part of 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994]. With the operation of this phase, 250 MW of electricity will enter the national circuit.

This statement was made by the manager of the thermopower plant of the west during the visit of Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi, the representative of the religious guardian in the region and the Friday imam of Hamadan, as well as some of the managers of the executive organizations of the province of Hamadan to the operations of the above-mentioned power plant. Explaining the completed activities in this power plant, he said: The implemental operations for the building and installation of the equipment of the Hamadan power plant will be carried out in four phases.

The first phase will be operational in the second half of next year, and the next three phases in periods of six months after that. Ultimately, by the end of 1373 [20 Mar 1995], with the operation of the entire project, 1,000 MW of electricity will enter the circuit.

The manager of the thermopower plant, which is under way in Hamadan stated that the total funds for this project are 12 billion tomans in rial funds and \$1 billion in foreign currency funds and said: So far, more than 3.3 billion tomans of the rial funds and \$700 million of the foreign currency funds have been used in the project.

Stating that a significant part of the operations of the building of this power plant is under way by domestic experts and engineers, he said: More than 75 percent of the heavy construction activities have been completed by domestic companies, and we are trying to bring this project into operation on schedule. He mentioned that one of the important problems of the above-mentioned power plant is lack of a natural gas pipeline and said: If a natural gas pipeline is not provided, this power plant will require 50-60 trucks of fuel daily. Considering the

transportation problems, the activities of the power plant will face some difficulties.

Also stating that more than 1,200 people are working in various parts of the power plant, he enumerated the existing problems and asked for the cooperation and support of the officials of the province to solve the existing problems of the personnel of this unit. According to this report, in a meeting that was held during this visit, the Friday imam of Hamadan in a speech praised the efforts of the workers and employees of the Hamadan Thermopower Plant and, expressing delight in the initiative and efforts of the domestic experts, he said: One of the very great services of the Imam to the country was to put a distance between the Westernized and Easternized societies. The Imam made us understand that we are able and capable of great work.

The implementation of important parts of the construction operations of this power plant by domestic experts is an example.

He also referred to the importance of electricity in the country and expressed hope that the operation of the Hamadan Thermopower Plant will be able to solve the problems of the industries and the problem of unemployment and also attract specialized forces to the province.

In the conclusion of this meeting, which took place in the presence of the general directors of labor and social affairs and electricity, technical and professional managers, and several other official and experts, the stated problems were discussed. It should be added that Hamadan Thermopower Plant is being built on a 330-hectare plot of land located 40 km from the Hamadan-Tehran road. The construction operations began in 1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990].

Three New Health Centers Inaugurated in Tehran*93AS0209F Tehran RESALAT in Persian
27 Oct 92 p 11*

[Text] Social Division. In order to expand, improve, and give proper service to those people insured by the Social Security Agency, three new health and treatment centers were opened in Tehran by the deputy director for treatment of this agency.

According to a report by the Public Relations Office of the Social Security Agency, these centers are:

Treatment Center No. 25, located on 24th Street in Sa'adatabad, specializing in pediatrics, internal and heart diseases, dentistry, general medicine, obstetrics (family planning), laboratory work, pharmacy needs, injections and vaccinations.

Treatment Centers No. 21 and 22, located on Second Sadiqiyyeh Square on Shahid Taqdiri Street, Nos. 45 and 75, specializing in pediatrics, internal and heart diseases, general medicine, laboratory work, pharmacy needs, injections and vaccinations.

Also, the laboratory of Shahid Shari'at-Razavi Hospital, located in Sar-e Asiab in Mehrabad, with computerized equipment, is ready to carry out tests for insured patients.

Also, the Headquarters for Patient Information, Admissions, and Distribution Centers is ready to respond to the insured at any hour, day or night, at the following telephone numbers: 640-2700, 640-8940, 640-1306, 640-094, and 666-2221.

Pishin Dam Construction Nearing Completion*93AS0209B Tehran RESALAT in Persian
29 Oct 92 p 15*

[Interview with Engineer Fahimi, the general manager of the Sistan and Baluchestan regional water agency; interviewer, place and date not given]

[Text] Zahedan. IRNA. With 40 billion rials in expenditures, more than 95 percent of the construction of the large Pishin Dam in Baluchestan has been completed, and it is scheduled to be filled starting in Bahman this year [21 Jan-19 Feb 1993].

Eng. Fahimi, the general manager of the Sistan and Baluchestan regional water agency, made this announcement in an interview and said: The construction operations of Pishin Dam started several years ago, and the earth-moving operations for the walls of the dam started in Ordibehesht [21 Apr-21 May] this year.

He added: With the operation of this dam, in addition to providing drinking water for the ports of Kenark and Ghabahar, 6,000 hectares of the Shirgavaz Plain will be revitalized and cultivated.

The general manager of the regional water agency of the province also said: As a result of the recent rainfall in Baluchestan and the accumulation of 60 million cubic meters of water behind Pishin Dam, whose flood gates are being installed, the filling was done naturally.

He added: This dam, in holding the water accumulated around it, was successfully tested without the slightest difficulty.

Communication Centers Inaugurated in Semnan*93AS0209E Tehran RESALAT in Persian
31 Oct 92 p 12*

[Text] News Service. Simultaneous with the recent visit of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, to the province of Semnan, in the presence of Engineer Gharazi, the minister of post, telegraph and telephone, and several people accompanying the president as well as local officials in various cities of this province, two new communication centers were inaugurated, and operations on the expansion of two other communication centers began as follows.

Expansion of the Damghan Telephone Center

The ultimate capacity of the electromechanical center, which is manufactured by the Shiraz Communications Factories, with complete urban, intercity, and international communication capabilities, is 20,000 telephones. Investment for this development amounted to 3 billion rials, which was provided from the funds of the Communications Company. It is noteworthy that with the operation of this development, the number of telephones in the city of Damghan will reach 7,500 and the number of applicants for telephones in this city will reach zero [as published].

The Digital Center of the City of Semnan

The ultimate capacity of this fully digital center, which has city, intercity, and international capabilities, is 15,000 telephones. Investments in this center amounted to 18 billion rials, which were provided from the funds of the Communications Company. It is interesting that with the inauguration of this new center, the number of telephones in the city of Semnan will reach 15,000.

The Digital Center of the City of Shahrud

The ultimate capacity of this center is 40,000 telephones, which has city, intercity, and international capabilities. Investments for this communication center amounted to 12 billion rials, which was provided from the funds of the Communications Company.

It is worthy of note that with the inauguration of this communications center, the possibility to respond to 8,000 new applicants has been provided, and the number of telephones in the city of Shahrud will reach 19,000.

Expansion of the Garmsar Telephone Center

With the expansion of this communication center, 1,400 telephones have been added to the number of telephones in the city of Garmsar, and the number of telephones in that city will increase to 4,311.

Investments for this expansion amounted to 1.5 billion rials. It is interesting that the Garmsar Communications Center is electromechanical and is manufactured by Shiraz Communications Factories in city, intercity, and international resources.

Aradan Digital Telephone Center

The capacity of the digital center, which has city and intercity capabilities, is 1,000 telephones, and the investments for it amounted to 1.2 billion rials, which were provided from the funds of the Communications Company.

Semnan Official on Urban Development Plans

93AS0207D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 29 Oct 92 p 9

[Interview with Mr. Taha'i, the governor general of Semnan; interviewer, place and date not given]

[Text] Semnan. IRNA. The president agreed to the implementation of several developmental projects to change higher education units into a university and centers for higher education and create two airports in the province of Semnan.

Mr. Taha'i, the governor general of Semnan, made this announcement in an interview and added: In this visit the problems of the province in regard to roads, water, industries, deserts, higher education centers, agriculture, and animal husbandry, and the problems of villages were specified, and the president issued instructions in regard to providing funds to address some of them this year and some in future years.

He said: The study and implementation of the project to transfer the water of Ruziyyeh Spring in Khatir Mountain, the transfer of some of the head branches in northern Semnan, the transfer of water from the Hablehrud, and providing funds for the study and implementation of the Nomrud and Damghanrud dams are many of the projects to which the president agreed.

The president also in this visit issued instructions concerning the creation of a mechanized animal husbandry refinery complex and the establishment of pasteurized milk factories.

Referring to the problems that exist in the course of the development of industries, the governor general of Semnan added: The president gave instructions to offer banking facilities to help the owners of industries, and in regards to providing competitive foreign currency he issued instructions to study the industries in the oppressed areas.

In continuation, Taha'i mentioned the problems of Garmsar in regards to the prohibition of industries within a 120-km radius of Tehran and said: Fortunately, with the order of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the problem was resolved, and in the future we will have good grounds for the development of industries in that city.

In regard to road building projects in the province of Semnan, he said: In connection with a north-south road and also the roads of the province of Semnan to Mazandaran, the president issued orders to provide funds. He added: The president agreed to the building of two airports in Shahrud and Semnan and instructed the officials to provide funds and implement these projects.

Also, providing drinking water for some cities and the improvement of villages were among the issues about which Mr. Hashemi gave instructions.

The governor general of Semnan pointed out: In this visit, the potential talents and resources of the Province of Semnan along with the issues and problems of the province were reported to the president. This will be very effective in the development of the province in the Second Plan and future plans.

Official Details Esfahan Steel Mill Activities

*93AS0209A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
31 Oct 92 p 15*

[Interview with Engineer Sadeqi, general manager of the Esfahan Steel Mill, by RESALAT; place and date not given]

[Text] Economic Division. The base production of the Esfahan Steel Mill is 1.9 million tons annually, which for the first time will increase to 2.12 million tons this year.

Eng. Sadeqi, the general manager of Esfahan Steel Mill, made this announcement in an exclusive interview with the economic correspondent of RESALAT and said: Reaching the base production was one of the most important goals of the Esfahan Steel Mill, which was achieved in 1369 [21 Mar 1990-20 Mar 1991], and this year 220,000 tons will be produced in addition to the base capacity.

He said: Because of several rates of foreign currency and also due to the existing foreign currency problems in regards to the failure of the Central Bank to pay the foreign currency allocation and consequently not being able to procure the needed materials, from Aban 1370 [23 Oct-21 Nov 1992], we started voluntarily to purchase based on the floating foreign currency and to produce accordingly.

Eng. Sadeqi added: Gradually the purchasing power of floating foreign currency to procure raw materials increased, so that by the end of last year more than 50 percent of the foreign currency needed by the factory, which amounted to \$120 million, was purchased in the form of floating foreign currency. Of course, considering

the transportation of cargo this year, we had to pay the major rial part of this purchase this year.

He said: In this manner, by procuring the needed raw materials, production in 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993] was guaranteed 100 percent, and despite the problems in the past few months, production in the factory has been maintained. In fact, in the seven months of this year, production in this factory has increased by 4 percent compared to a similar period last year.

The general manager of the Esfahan Steel Mill then spoke about the other results of using floating foreign currency in the production of the factory and said: The implementation of the floating foreign currency policy and entering the open market was very effective in balancing the price of products, such that the price of some products decreased from 100 tomans per kilo to 30 tomans and even less.

In continuation, he referred to the problems that were anticipated would be created with this new policy and added: The first problem in fact was that products would not sell due to the open-market rate of ironware and subsequently the existing products in the warehouses would be used, because in the past due to the existence of false (subsidized) prices, the amount of existing goods in the warehouses was above the normal and standard level, and hence it was anticipated that as soon as the price was freed, first the inventory of the warehouses would flood the market and be sold. In regards to the other restrictions resulting from the open-market price of the products of the Esfahan Steel Mill, he said: The government organizations, which in the past purchased 60 percent of the products of the factory, because of the increase in price that was not projected in the budget, either used the inventory in the warehouses or purchased at the available foreign currency rate from abroad.

He mentioned another problem that was anticipated would be created after the implementation of this policy as the "volume of cash flow" and said: The volume of cash flow of the Esfahan Steel Mill last year was 30 billion tomans, which this year should increase to more than 80 billion tomans. This increase in the cash flow on the one hand creates problems for the management of the factory. On the other hand, its absorption also brings with it many problems.

Eng. Sadeqi then spoke about the unanticipated problems and said: One of these problems was the government orders issued last year, which were mostly issued at the end of the year, the foreign currency for which was not collected. Hence, it was thought that since production was based on the floating foreign currency, the product would be sold to them at the free-market prices.

He added: Unfortunately, this did not materialize, and in accordance with the decisions of the Economic Council, the Esfahan Steel Mill was made responsible to deliver the orders issued in 1370 as usual.

He added: In this manner, the product that was produced with the floating foreign currency and at a cost of 40 tomans per kilo would have to be delivered at 14 tomans per kg, which created a \$12 billion financial burden on the Esfahan Steel Mill.

In regards to the present conditions of the factory, he said: At the present time, the conditions in financial terms have relatively improved, and it is anticipated that with the continuation of this trend by the end of Khordad [21 Jun] next year, all the factories' debts will be resolved. In regards to the domestic sale of products, he also said: In the past month, for the first time we succeeded in selling all the products domestically. In regards to improvements in the factory, Engineer Sadeqi said: For this purpose, 23 contracts have been signed, of which about 15 contracts are active and the rest for the above-mentioned reasons face cash flow problems. If these improvements are made, the base production of the factory will increase from 1.9 to 2.5 million tons annually.

He mentioned that the number of personnel in Mehr 1369 [23 Sep-22 Oct 1990] was 29,000 persons and said: Based on the policies of the factory in regards to reducing manpower, this year this number has reached 21,000 (excluding the seasonal labor force). Of course, with the support of an investing company, 28 other companies will be established under its umbrella, and hence the unemployment of these people will be prevented.

'Kidney Bank' To Become Operational in Esfahan
93AS0220B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I
in Persian 4 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] Tehran. 3 Aban [25 Oct]. The deputy director of the Esfahan Kidney Patients Protection Society announced: Soon the first "kidney bank" in the country will start its activities in Esfahan.

According to KEYHAN correspondent in Esfahan, speaking at the inauguration ceremonies of the Esfahan branch of the Kidney Patients Protection Society, pointing out that kidney transplant operations have begun at the Khorshid Medical Center in Esfahan, he said: This center is capable of admitting 1,000 patients a day from Abadan.

In the continuation of these ceremonies, the head of the Iranian Kidney Patients Protection Society said: Throughout the country we have about 7,000 kidney patients, 5,000 of whom are given dialysis and need the help of the people and the officials.

Himself a dialysis patient, he described part of the pained and suffering lives of these patients and said: These patients are struggling with death at every moment.

Esfahan Ranks Third in Aridity

93AS0207E Tehran ABRAR in Persian 28 Oct 92 p 9

[Text] Esfahan, IRNA. The province of Esfahan ranks third in the country in aridity.

The average annual rainfall in the province of Esfahan is about 110 to 120 millimeters. This insignificant natural share, on the one hand, and obtaining only 50 percent of the surface water in the province, on the other, together have resulted in a water shortage throughout the province.

Concerned water officials in the province believe that the water shortage problem in this province is a serious one and that lack of sufficient attention to it will cause a serious problem for the country in the not-too-distant future.

A large amount of agricultural land in the province has lost its output due to lack of water and has reverted to desert. And the existing agriculture is the result of proper and perfect use of existing water. With about 120 billion cubic meters of water, about 150,000 hectares of land is cultivated.

The Jequyeh, Barkhar, and Ardestan Plains are among the major areas with little water in the province of Esfahan. In particular, the Ardestan Plain, in addition to the impossibility of transferring water, is threatened with the infiltration of underground water by salt water.

The shortage in terms of the agricultural situation in these areas has also affected the Keron and Mahyar regions. Thirty percent of the wells in these regions have dried up.

Along with the problem of water shortage, what seems important is the use of the water of the Zayandehrud. The life of 60 to 70 percent of the population and a major part of the agriculture of the province depends on water from this river.

Of the 1.4 billion cubic meters of water taken annually from this river, about 120 million cubic meters is used for drinking; 130 to 150 million cubic meters is taken through various wells, of which 100 million cubic meters is used in industry; and the remainder is used in the agricultural sector.

The increase in various industries in the province of Esfahan and providing water for them has strengthened the likelihood of reducing water by 300 to 400 million cubic meters from the agricultural sector and its use in industry.

According to this water manager in the Plan and Budget Organization of the province of Esfahan, until 1374 [21 Mar 1995-20 Mar 1996], the amount of 180 billion rials will be spent on all the water outreach projects in this province and also the province of Chahar Mahal and Bakhtiari, where we need to use 115,602 hectares of land for cultivation.

Laparoscopy Apparatus Built Domestically*93AS0209G Tehran RESALAT in Persian 31 Oct 92 p 6*

[Text] A video laparoscopy apparatus, which is used for surgical procedures without incisions, was designed and built by Dr. Gholamreza Tizrow, a member of the faculty of Urmia Medical Sciences University and a surgeon, gynecologist, and obstetrician.

According to IRNA, this apparatus uses cold light and a special camera that is connected to a television monitor and allows the surgeon, by creating two incisions 5 mm in diameter into the body of the patient, to perform various surgical procedures on the patient.

Dr. Tizrow, the creator of this apparatus, said: By using this apparatus we can also diagnose various internal diseases and film the damaged internal areas.

He added: This apparatus in surgery, anesthesia, and operation time uses the least amount of time and brings hospital costs and hospitalization to a minimum.

To build this apparatus, all the equipment and parts were procured domestically at a total cost of 500,000 rials, whereas a similar foreign apparatus on the market costs 500 million rials.

The creator of this apparatus also, by using very simple and inexpensive equipment, has himself procured and built the equipment for video laparoscopy, which includes various (terokar kanun), scissors, forceps, scalpels and suction.

This apparatus and related equipment, which has been used in several operations and about which several documentary films have been produced, has been approved by the Urmia Medical Sciences University.

Previously, Dr. Tizrow had built an electric cautery, which was approved by the Scientific and Industrial Research Organization of Khorasan and Mashhad University and has been used for 10 years in the hospitals in the country.

A cautery is a kind of electric scalpel that is used to prevent the bleeding of an incision during surgery.

Venesection Becoming Widespread Again*93AS0212E London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Nov 92 p 2*

[Text] Two venesection centers in Tehran were closed on the order of the Prosecutor's Office for medical violations.

Venesection is one of the oldest methods of treating internal and nervous disorders. Years ago, due to health-related issues and microbic infections, the procedure was banned, but in the chaos following the revolution, the centers were again established in various parts of cities and engaged in the unsanitary treatment of people. Last week, due to complaints by the people, two venesection centers were closed on Ferdowsi Street.

Health Care Entrusted Completely to Private Sector*93AS0224G London KEYHAN in Persian 3 Dec 92 p 4*

[Text] The Islamic regime is trying to entrust a major part of the treatment and educational system of the country to the private sector in the Second Developmental Plan. In the draft of the above-mentioned plan, which was submitted to the Majles for examination some time ago, it is stated that the Islamic regime has transferred all the noneducational hospitals of the country to the private sector. In addition the government hospitals will also be obliged to collect money and treatment expenses from clients to meet their budgetary needs and become so-called self-operational. In the course of the Second Plan, the Islamic regime also intends to sell a number of the incomplete hospitals and treatment centers of the nongovernmental sector and along with it confer the responsibility for the creation and development of treatment health centers to the City Halls. One of the Majles deputies some time ago, in a meeting of the Majles, referred to a part of the projected proposals in the Second Developmental Plan and said: The Ministry of Health and Treatment is mainly responsible for the treatment of the people. By transferring its hospitals it will confer this grave responsibility to the nongovernmental sector and, considering the high cost of treatment services, the oppressed and destitute people throughout the country will face problems.

Schools Operate in Shifts Due To Space Shortage*93AS0208C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 20 Oct 92 p 2*

[Interview with the director of new construction, development, and equipment of the national schools by IRNA in Yasuj; date not given]

[Text] In order to improve the quality of educational space, there is at the present a need for 112,000 classrooms throughout the country.

The director of new construction, development, and equipment of the national schools, who traveled to Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad to examine the educational space and visit the developmental projects, made this statement in an interview with the reporter of IRNA in Yasuj.

He said: At the present time, 356,000 classrooms exist throughout the country, of which 46 percent have been created since the revolution.

He said: The shortage of educational space throughout the country resulted in 56,000 classes with 17 million students taught mostly in two shifts. In areas that accept immigrants, sometimes there are three shifts.

Considering the population growth, he said: By the end of the 1376-1377 [1997-98] academic year, we will have about 21 million students. In order to improve and raise the quality of education in high schools and middle

schools, we must increase the building of classrooms from 32,000 to 42,000 per year.

He added: In order to build these schools, every year we need more than 12 million square meters of land. With the elimination of the urban land law in the cities, procuring land to build schools has been problematic.

He mentioned the funds for this year of the New School Construction Agency of the country as 370 billion rials and added: Of this amount, 4.3 billion rials is allocated to Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad.

He requested of the government companies and factories that they expedite the depositing of 2 percent of their annual profit in the account of the New School Construction Agency in accordance with the ratification of the 1371 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994] budget law.

In conclusion, he requested of individuals who have the resources to participate in building schools to contribute their cash or material aid for education to the new construction management of provinces or in Account No. 90056 of the Melli Bank, Ashtiani Branch, in Qeytariyyeh in Tehran.

Lack of Funds Hindering Construction of New Schools

93AS0208D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 29 Oct 92 p 9

[Text] Kermanshah. IRNA. To provide education for the country, we need 32,000 new classrooms annually. However, with the funds it has been allocated, the New School Construction, Development, and Equipment Organization is only able to build 130,000 classrooms annually.

This statement was made by Bonyanian, the head of the New School Construction Organization of the country, in a meeting introducing the new director of the New School Construction, Development, and Equipment Organization of the Province of Bakhtaran.

Pointing out that the New Construction Organization of the country suffers from a shortage of funds, he said: This year, 401,000 classrooms throughout the country have been left incomplete due to the shortage of funds.

Announcing that the national student population has increased by more than 10 million since 1357 [21 Mar 1978-20 Mar 1979], he emphasized the necessity for population control and increasing the funds of the New School Construction Organization.

He considered the success of the economic social and cultural programs of the government dependent on a mental change in the society and the promotion of the level of knowledge and expertise of the national administrators and praised the services of Mr. Eftekhari, the former administrator for new construction of Bakhtaran Province.

In the continuation of these ceremonies Eftekhari, the former administrator of new construction in the province of Bakhtaran, announced in a report: In recent years, 600 educational projects with 3,000 classrooms and 48 billion rials in funds have been created in the cities and villages of this province.

He said: The province of Bakhtaran has a shortage of 4,000 classrooms, and the annual funds will meet only 80 percent of the educational needs for that year. In the conclusion of these ceremonies, Engineer 'Abdol'ali Kimia'i was introduced as the administrator of the New School Construction, Development, and Equipment of the province of Bakhtaran.

Unemployed Youth Involved in Illegal Activities

93AS0220I Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 4 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] KEYHAN-E HAVA'I news service. 3 Aban [25 Oct]. A large number of Iranians who have gone to Japan seeking work have become unemployed because of the economic recession in that country in recent months.

According to a report, in order to gain income, a number of unemployed youths engage in offenses such as the purchase and sale of narcotics, selling forged telephone cards, selling stolen goods in public parks, and theft from stores.

The Japanese police, in various raids to the places where unemployed Iranian youths gather, arrest a number of them every week and jail or deport them.

The unemployed Iranian youths hanging around the streets and public centers in Japan and having a hand in various crimes as well as the broadcast of such news in the Japanese media has offended that group of compatriots who place importance on the national dignity and prestige of their country and caused them to protest.

University Curricula To Include Military Training

93AS0209C Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Oct 92 p 2

[Text] The teaching of military principles and techniques as a university course will begin in the universities of the country from the next academic year.

According to the correspondent of IRNA, Guard Corps General Farhadi, the head of the Student Mobilization Center of the National Resistance Force, in ceremonies honoring the Basij Week in Arak, said: Preserving the lofty Islamic values, strengthening the scientific knowledge of the combatants, giving direction to universities towards the construction of the country, and defense preparedness to guard the foundations and existence of the Islamic revolution are among the important principles behind the creation of the Student Mobilization Force.

He said: The operations of the Student Mobilization Force were clarified by Ayatollah Khamene'i, the grand

leader, and announced to the higher education centers of the Mobilization Resistance Force of the Cultural Revolution Council and the president.

In these ceremonies, in which university personnel, mobilization forces and commanders, and officials of the Arak resistance bases were present, Mr. Qoreyshi, the commander of the Guard Corps of Central Region, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadian, the representative of the religious guardian in the Central Region Guard Corps, spoke about the Student Mobilization Force and the purpose for establishing it.

Black-Market Medicine Flourishes Due to Shortages

93AS02120 London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] Severe shortages of drugs in the drug stores of Tehran and other cities and the scarcity of vital pharmaceutical items have forced those who need these items to engage in trade in smuggled drugs on Naser Khosrow Street to save their own lives and those of their loved ones. Reports from Tehran indicate that despite the empty promises of the officials of the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education of the Islamic Republic about the abundance of drugs, Naser Khosrow

Street continues to be a thriving domain for drug smugglers. Those who need these vital items are forced in some cases to pay 10 times the official price for drugs they need. Newspapers published in Tehran some time ago announced that the recent arrest of several smugglers who sold drugs has not stopped the market of these sellers on Naser Khosrow Street, and because the people have to buy the drugs they need in any way possible, they have to go to the outlying areas of Naser Khosrow Street. ETTELA'AT, published in Tehran, published a report on the spread of the sale of smuggled drugs on Naser Khosrow Street and wrote: "Drug smugglers continue to have Naser Khosrow Street in Tehran as their domain of action. Often rare drugs are easily found on this street and at high prices." The above-mentioned newspaper added: "Drug smugglers spread their wares on the edges of the sidewalks of this street and sell drugs. If they see an official, they easily hide in the crowd or in a store." ETTELA'AT, quoting a specialized physician, wrote: "Examinations of the drugs offered on Naser Khosrow Street have shown that most of these drugs have expired dates, and their use by patients will have ill effects." Purchasers of drugs on Naser Khosrow Street told ETTELA'AT reporter that because they could not find the drugs they needed despite searching in all the drug stores in the city, they had to go to Naser Khosrow Street to purchase the drugs they needed at several times the original price.

New Ground Forces Appointments Announced

93AS0208A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 22 Oct 92 p 3

[Text] News Service. The general commander of the Guard Corps emphasized the readiness and increase of the combat capability of the ground forces of the Guard Corps.

According to the Public Relations Office of the Guard Corps, in ceremonies held in the presence of Dr. Firuzabadi, the head of the central headquarters of the armed forces, the acting general commander and head of the headquarters of the agency of the religious guardian in the Guard Corps, and all the commanders of the stations, armies, regiments, and deputy commanders of ground forces headquarters, General Reza'i, the general

commander of the Guard Corps, presented General Amir Shari'ati as the acting commander and Guard General 'Abdollahi as the head of the headquarters of the ground forces of the Guard Corps.

In these ceremonies, the general commander of the Guard Corps, considering the threats of the enemies, in a speech emphasized the combat readiness and increase in the combat capability of the ground forces of the Guard Corps.

Based on this report, yesterday the new academic year of Imam Hoseyn University also started in the presence of the general commander of the Guard Corps, Gen.sen Reza'i.